These charges are only allegations which may be contested by the licensee in an Administrative hearing.

### NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

# IN THE MATTER OF SUSAN HARALABATOS, M.D.

NOTICE OF
REFERRAL
PROCEEDING

TO: SUSAN HARALABATOS, M.D.

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT:

An adjudicatory proceeding will be held pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(10)(p) and N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §§301-307 and 401. The proceeding will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Committee) on January 16, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., at the offices of the New York State Department of Health, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 510, Menands (Albany), NY 12204-2719, and at such other adjourned dates, times and places as the committee may direct.

At the proceeding, evidence will be received concerning the allegations set forth in the Statement of Charges, which is attached. A stenographic record of the proceeding will be made and the witnesses at the proceeding will be sworn and examined.

You may appear in person at the proceeding and may be represented by counsel who shall be an attorney admitted to practice in New York state. You may produce evidence or sworn testimony on your behalf. Such evidence or sworn testimony shall be strictly limited to evidence and testimony relating to the nature and severity of the penalty to be imposed upon the licensee. Where the charges are based on the conviction of state law crimes in other jurisdictions, evidence may be offered which would show that the conviction would not be a crime in New York State. The Committee also may limit the number of witnesses whose testimony will be received, as well as the length of time any witness will be permitted to testify.

If you intend to present sworn testimony, the number of witnesses and an estimate of the time necessary for their direct examination must be submitted to the New York State

For GPS purposes, enter "Menands", not "Albany".

Department of Health, Division of Legal Affairs, Bureau of Adjudication, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway - Suite 510, Albany, NY 12204-2719, ATTENTION: HON. JAMES HORAN, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ADJUDICATION (Telephone: (518-402-0748), (henceforth "Bureau of Adjudication") as well as the Department of Health attorney indicated below, no later than twenty days prior to the scheduled date of the Referral Proceeding, as indicated above.

Pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(10)(p), you shall file a written answer to each of the charges and allegations in the Statement of Charges at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Any charge or allegation not so answered shall be deemed admitted. You may wish to seek the advice of counsel prior to filing such answer. You may also file a written brief and affidavits with the Committee. All such documents shall be filed with the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, and a copy shall be forwarded to the attorney for the Department of Health whose name appears below, at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Should the parties have objection(s) to proposed witnesses or documentary evidence, the party raising the objection(s) shall contact the Bureau of Adjudication at least three days prior to the hearing date to arrange for a pre-hearing conference with the Administrative Law Judge, prior to the hearing date.

Not later than ten days prior to the date of the hearing, you are required to file one copy of your proposed exhibits (if any) with the Bureau of Adjudication at the address indicated above, and a copy of all such documents/exhibits must be served on the same date on the Department of Health attorney indicated below. On the day of the hearing, you are also required to provide the original of such exhibits and three copies, for use by the Committee.

Pursuant to §301(5) of the State Administrative Procedure Act, the Department, upon reasonable notice, will provide at no charge a qualified interpreter of the deaf to interpret the proceedings to, and the testimony of, any deaf person. Pursuant to the terms of N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §401 and 10 N.Y.C.R.R. §51.8(b), the Petitioner hereby demands disclosure of the evidence that the Respondent intends to introduce at the hearing, including the names of witnesses, a list of and copies of documentary evidence and a description of physical or other evidence which cannot be photocopied.

YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT THE ATTACHED CHARGES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THEY ARE SERVED.

Department attorney: Initial here\_

The proceeding may be held whether or not you appear. Please note that requests for adjournments must be made in writing to the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, with a copy of the request to the attorney for the Department of Health, whose name appears below, at least five days prior to the scheduled date of the proceeding. Adjournment requests are not routinely granted. Claims of court engagement will require detailed affidavits of actual engagement. Claims of illness will require medical documentation. Failure to obtain an attorney within a reasonable period of time prior to the proceeding will not be grounds for an adjournment.

The Committee will make a written report of its findings, conclusions as to guilt, and a determination. Such determination may be reviewed by the administrative review board for professional medical conduct.

THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A
DETERMINATION THAT YOUR LICENSE TO PRACTICE
MEDICINE IN NEW YORK STATE BE REVOKED OR
SUSPENDED, AND/OR THAT YOU BE FINED OR
SUBJECT TO OTHER SANCTIONS SET OUT IN NEW
YORK PUBLIC HEALTH LAW §§230-a. YOU ARE URGED
TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN
THIS MATTER.

DATED:

Albany, New York November 15, 2018

MICHAEL A. HISER
Deputy Counsel

Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

#### Inquiries should be addressed to:

Pooja A. Rawal Senior Attorney Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct Corning Tower – Room 2512 Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12237 (518) 473-4282

cc: James Knox, Esq.

E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy, LLP 28 Second Street Troy, NY 12180 NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER

OF

SUSAN HARALABATOS, M.D.

OF CHARGES

SUSAN HARALABATOS, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about September 8, 1989, by the issuance of license number 179890 by the New York State Education Department.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- A. On or about April 5, 2018, the Respondent entered into a Stipulated Order ("Order") with the Oregon Medical Board ("OR Board"). The Respondent was Reprimanded and ordered to perform her first five operative procedures involving pediatric patients in the presence of a board-certified pediatric orthopedist/orthopedist who specializes in pediatric orthopedics whom will submit a report to the Board. The proctor must also review 20 additional pediatric operative cases of the Respondent's and provide a report within 180 days from the date the Board Chair signs the Order.
- B. The Order was based on findings that the Respondent engaged in gross or repeated acts of negligence relating to the care and treatment of five patients detailed in the October 11, 2016 Complaint & Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action ("Complaint"). The Complaint found the Respondent engaged in a pattern of practice that unnecessarily exposed her patients to the risk of harm and constituted gross or repeated acts of negligence by being overly aggressive in performing surgery on patients where surgery was not indicated; employed substantial surgical technique, to include failing to adequately reduce fractures; failing to properly place screws (or use enough screws) to hold the reduction in place; and over relying upon fluoroscopy,

resulting in extended radiation exposure to patients. By taking these patients to surgery rather than relying upon closed reduction and immobilization, Respondent unnecessarily exposed young patients to the risk of surgery- to include the risk of infection and other complications, and the need for subsequent corrective procedures.

- C. The conduct resulting in the OR Board's disciplinary action against the Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State pursuant to the following sections of New York State Law:
  - 1. New York Education Law §6530(3) (Practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion); and/or
  - 2. N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(4) (Practicing the profession of medicine with gross negligence on a particular occasion).

## SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES FIRST SPECIFICATION

#### HAVING HAD DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(d) by having his or her license to practice medicine revoked, suspended or having other disciplinary action taken, or having his or her application for a license refused, revoked or suspended or having voluntarily or otherwise surrendered his or her license after a disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action involving the license or refusal, revocation or suspension of an application for a license or the surrender of the license would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. The facts in Paragraphs A, B, C and/or C1 and/or C2.

#### SECOND SPECIFICATION

#### HAVING BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or professional misconduct by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state where the conduct upon which the finding was based would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. The facts in Paragraphs A, B, C and/or C1 and/or C2.

DATE: November / 5, 2018

Albany, New York

MICHAEL A. HISER
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct